

***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after allowance or after an Office action under *Ex Parte Quayle*, 25 USPQ 74, 453 O.G. 213 (Comm'r Pat. 1935). Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, prosecution in this application has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 02/08/10 has been entered.

**REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the references, either singularly or in combination, discloses or even suggests:

As per claims 1-7, a gaming network comprising: a player processing system structured to record a present state of the bonus game wherein the present state of the bonus game can be recalled from stored data during a subsequent gaming session, the bonus game including a series of trigger events in which the bonus game advances to a non-initial state upon the occurrence of a trigger event, at a non-initial state a player identified to the gaming device acquires an award randomly selected from a group of possible awards, and at the end of the bonus game the player is rewarded based on the number or types of awards acquired.

As per claims 16-19, a player specific gaming server coupled to the player tracking system and coupled to the gaming device, the gaming server structured to record session information of the bonus game played on the gaming device by the player wherein the present state of the bonus game can be recalled from stored data during a subsequent gaming session, the

bonus game having a series of trigger events in which the bonus game advances to a non-initial state upon the occurrence of trigger event, at a non-initial state a player identified to the gaming device acquires an award randomly selected from a group of possible awards, and at the end of the bonus game the player is rewarded based on the number or types of awards acquired.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ronald Laneau whose telephone number is (571)272-6784. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Vo can be reached on (571) 272-4690. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ronald Laneau/  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3714

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